

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

12 DEC. 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Goan situation becomes more ominous

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we believe that the Indians now have more than 30,000 troops in the area, vs. fewer than 5,000 Portuguese.

2. Venezuelan fears for Betancourt's safety

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leftists will try to assassinate Betancourt before President Kennedy's arrival. Betancourt is being given special security protection.

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3. Indonesia-New Guinea

a) Ambassador Jones is satisfied that the President's letter has brought Sukarno back to reality for the time being. At their meeting yesterday Sukarno said: "Please tell President Kennedy, first, I thank him for his letter; second, that I welcome your approaching the Dutch; third, that we do not have much time."

b) While apparently hoping that early talks can take place with the Dutch, Sukarno is not in a mood to concede very much. He is still against self-determination and is thinking in terms of Indonesian administration after a year of UN supervision.

c) Following Sukarno's meeting with his military chiefs and other top aides later in the day, it was announced that he will issue some kind of "command" on the New Guinea question next Tuesday. Foreign Minister Subandrio is scheduled to make a declaration on the subject to parliament today.

d) Jones reports that Sukarno was obviously pleased when he learned of the scheduling of the Attorney General's visit.

4. Congo

a) There was little change in the military situation in Katanga yesterday. Sporadic fighting continued in and around Elizabethville.

b) India's top diplomat in the Congo is in Elizabethville trying to persuade the UN military to launch all-out war. [redacted]

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[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

c) Adoula is keeping a watchful eye on the Gizenga problem. He has had an indictment of Gizenga drawn up, but is probably looking for a boost from developments in Katanga before presenting it to parliament.

d) Ambassador MacArthur predicts that we are in for a "very, very rough time" in our relations with the Belgians because of Katanga.

5. Laos

a) As of yesterday, the three princes meeting was on again, with Souvanna [redacted]

[redacted] to come to Vientiane if his security terms are met and Phoumi saying he now agrees to them. No date has been set, however, and difficulties could still develop.

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b) The rebel forces, meanwhile, appear to be adding considerably to their hardware. An American pilot reports sighting two columns of tanks--he counted 35--accompanied by numbers of weapons carriers and trucks, crossing into Laos from North Vietnam on Sunday and Monday.

6. Chinese representation vote

The outlook for a favorable vote on the "important question" resolution--likely to come up on Thursday or Friday--is good, with the Latin Americans strongly behind it and the bulk of the Brazzaville group ready to go along. Our UN delegation thinks that the Soviet resolution, as it now stands, would not win a simple majority. However, it still fears moves by countries favoring the "two-Chinas" idea to amend the Soviet resolution in such a way that the General Assembly will be put on record as favoring admission of Peiping without excluding Taipei.

NOTES

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A.

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C. There has been no further progress in the Dominican negotiations.

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- E. Soviet and European satellite delegations are assembling in Warsaw for a meeting of the Council of Economic Mutual Assistance which will probably drum Albania out of its ranks.
- F. The Burmese are asking Moscow to resume its economic aid program, which has been pretty much dormant ever since a previous Burmese government held out for grants instead of credits. However, the U Nu government recently accepted an \$84,000,000 credit from Peiping and Moscow will probably try to re-enter the picture with another offer of long-term credits.
- G. The East Germans are getting ready to cut off imports of foundry coke from West Germany and to increase imports of hard coal from the USSR. There appear to be related moves to provide insurance against a possible suspension of trade with West Germany.
- H. The Menzies government is maintaining a small lead in election returns but the outcome will be uncertain until the count is complete.

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